

**Zawitoski, John**

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**From:** Criss, Jeremy  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 03, 2013 10:45 AM  
**To:** Ike Leggett; Siok, Pat  
**Cc:** 'David Weitzer'; Silverman, Steve; Herrera, Mitsuko; Gibson, Cindy  
**Subject:** Response letter from the AAC regarding the Attached letter from Councilmember Roger Berliner-Comcast Cable Franchise Agreement

**Attachments:** Scanned Document From DED\_5035\_1 ; AACComcastcable.doc

Hello Ike and Pat,

The Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee-AAC met on June 18, 2013 and discussed the attached letter from Councilmember Roger Berliner dated June 13, 2013.

The letter focuses on an opportunity to address the needs of the rural and agricultural communities through the new Comcast Cable Franchise Agreement.

Following the discussion, the AAC voted unanimously to approve the attached letter supporting the suggestion from Councilmember Berliner to ask that you direct the negotiators to make the provision of access to high speed broadband technology in the rural and agricultural areas of the county during the life of the new contract.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thanks J

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Department of Economic Development  
Agricultural Services Division  
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MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

ROGER BERLINER  
COUNCILMEMBER  
DISTRICT 1

CHAIRMAN  
TRANSPORTATION, INFRASTRUCTURE  
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

June 13, 2013

County Executive Isiah Leggett  
Executive Office Building  
101 Monroe Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Mr. Leggett,


There is little debate over the fact that the business of agriculture is an important part of Montgomery County's economic success and to our quality of life. Indeed, over 560 farms contribute close to \$250 million to the county's economy.

In today's world, technology has become a critically important tool for agriculture and to the success of our farming community. Unfortunately, our farming community in our Agricultural Reserve currently does not have access to the state of the art when it comes to high speed broadband, the backbone of today's internet world.

That can be remedied however. You are in negotiations with COMCAST to write a new cable franchise agreement. It seems to me that this presents a prime opportunity to meet our goal. To that end I am asking that you direct your negotiators to make the provision of access to high speed broadband technology in these areas of the county a reality during the life of the new contract.

I appreciate your consideration of this proposal so that we can assure that these county residents will have the same advantages available to them as those living in more urban communities.

Sincerely,

  
Roger Berliner  
Councilmember, District 1  
Montgomery County Council

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cc: David Weitzer, Agricultural Advisory Committee  
Caroline Taylor, Countryside Alliance  
Beth Daly, Sugarloaf Citizens Association  
James Brown, President, Poolesville Board of Commission



**AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

July 1, 2013

The Honorable Isiah Leggett  
Montgomery County Executive  
101 Monroe Street  
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear County Executive Leggett:

Follow up to the June 13, 2013 letter from  
Councilmember Roger Berliner-COMCAST Cable  
Franchise to the County Executive

On June 18, 2013 the Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee-AAC discussed a letter that I was copied on dated June 13, 2013 from Councilmember Roger Berliner which was addressed to you. The letter expressed the need for better technology and access to the state of art high speed broadband in the farming community of Montgomery County.

The AAC unanimously supports the recommendation from Councilmember Berliner that while you negotiate with COMCAST to write a new cable agreement that this represents a prime opportunity to make a provision of access to high speed broadband technology in the farming community during the life of the new contract.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

David Weitzer, Chairman

Steve Silverman, Director, DED

Members of the AAC and APAB



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850

Isiah Leggett  
County Executive

MEMORANDUM

July 1, 2013

TO: Roger Berliner, Councilmember

FROM: Isiah Leggett, County Executive **Original signed by  
Isiah Leggett**

SUBJECT: Improved Access to Modern Technology in the Agriculture Reserve

I agree with you that the business of agriculture is a vital part of the County's economy and that it is important that our farming community in the Agriculture Reserve has access to modern technology.

I have previously directed our Cable and Broadband Administrator to address improved access to cable service within the Agriculture Reserve as part of the County's negotiation of the Comcast cable franchise renewal. I understand that there is a meeting tentatively scheduled with Comcast and your office on July 8, 2013 to discuss the status of this matter in greater detail.

I look forward to working with you and the rest of the Council in this and other endeavors to support the goals of the Agriculture Reserve and our County's vibrant farming community.

bcc: CECC 1839-13  
CE Read  
Sonny Segal, CIO/DTS